(b) if so, what items of steel are likely to be imported and what would be its cost in foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Government have allowed the import of steel during 1985-86.

(b) The main items of import are billets, plates structurals, sheets, strips, coils, bars and rods. The outgo in foreign exchange will depend on the quantities actually imported by users.

Import of rice by Gulf countries

†2337. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Gulf countries have been importing rice from India;

(b) if so, the names of the countries importing rice;

(c) what are the names of the canalising agencies;

(d) whether Government are aware that the canalising agencies have failed to export the contracted quantity of rice;

(e) whether two prestigious rice deals by the Abu Dhabi municipality and supply company of Kuwait have been cancelled and other deals are also facing cancellation as reported in the *Times of India* of 27th July, 1985; and

(f) if so, what measures are proposed to be taken in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) During 1982-83 to 1984-85, basmati rice was exported to Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates. Export of non-basmati rice is not permitted.

(c) The current export policy provides for export of basmati rice under Open General Licence. Export of Basmati rice is not canalised through any agency.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Abu Dhabi Municipality has cancelled the contract placed on S.T.C. S.T.C. did not enter into contract with the Kuwait supply Company.

(f) S.T.C. is making efforts to negotiate fresh deal for export of Basmati rice to Abu Dhabi.

Export of wheat to Pakistan

@2338. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:

SHRIMATI KAILASHPATI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether government have explored the possibility of export wheat; and

(b) whether Pakistan has offered to barter its fertilisers with our wheat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

Rationing of Foreign scrap vessels

@@2339. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have resorted to rationing in the supply of foreign scrap vessels for ship breaking units in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details of the policy in this regard;

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†Previously Unstarred Question 166 transferred from the 9th August, 1985.

@Previously Unstarred Question 1669, transferred from the 9th August, 1985.

@@Previously Unstarred Question 2043, transferred from the 14th August, 1985.